



College Volleyball Recruiting Tips

Following is a list of tips and ideas to help make your recruiting process more enjoyable, productive, and successful.

√ Accept invitations to attend college-sponsored recruiting days (sometimes referred to as “Junior Days”) that focus on student athletes and their parents. Frequently held in conjunction with a campus sporting event, they are great opportunities for you to learn more about the college and its sports program and include meeting current team members. An invitation to one of these events does not mean a student athlete is being recruited.

√ Choose your college as much for the education you will receive as for your sport. Very few college athletes will play their sport professionally so should you get injured, decide later not to play during college, or not make the team it is important to be enrolled in a school that meets your academic needs.

√ Attend college athletic events for your sport whenever and wherever possible.

√ Maintain your eligibility for athletic scholarships by passing all required coursework and maintaining a satisfactory GPA.

√ Apply and gain acceptance to at least one college you want to attend whether or not you have an opportunity to play your sport.

√ Always personalize your letters and emails to each coach by using the coach’s name and professional title. Never start your letters and emails with “Dear Coach”. Find coach information at individual college athletic program web pages or call the college athletic department.

√ The three essential qualities needed to win an athletic scholarship are:

1. Athletic talent, 2. Academic achievement, 3. Exposure to the coaches and colleges that match your unique student athlete profile.

√ Ask yourself why you are interested in playing sports at the college level. Your answer will help guide your plans and shape your decisions as a student athlete. Do you love the game and competition? Do you plan an athletic coaching career? Are you looking for a way to pay for your college education? Is your goal to play professional sports?

√ Involve your parents, coaches and other supportive adults in your plans to attend college as a student athlete. Ask them to assist you with planning college visits, role playing before meetings and interviews, and reviewing the letters and applications you prepare.

√ Challenge yourself to exceed the minimal standards for high school graduation. Minimal efforts equal minimum results in competition and in the classroom.

√ Keep college coaches updated throughout your recruitment process. Send a brief email or text message when you have new information to share.

√ Visit college web sites to conveniently access information for prospective athletes. Learn about available academic and sports programs and what makes each college program unique.

√ Be realistic about your athletic ability and level of commitment. Ask your high school coaches and counselors to provide assessments and recommend colleges matching both your academic and athletic needs.

√ Arrange to have your final high school transcript sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse if you expect to compete as a D-I or D-II college student athlete.

√ Be self-confident, realistic and persistent in presenting your student athlete profile to coaches.

√ Ask former and current college athletes to share their experiences and offer advice.

√ Your online student athlete profile is your most valuable tool for organizing the details of your academic and athletic performance and communicating them to coaches. Frequently update your online student athlete profile to reflect competition results; participation in tournament, camps and showcases; video highlights, current G.P.A. and other information coaches need to evaluate prospects.

√ Be honest with college coaches and counselors about your athletic abilities, academic standing, accomplishments and personal goals.

√ Know college and conference calendars and schedules. Be aware of all application deadlines and recruiting periods for your sport.

√ Know and follow all college and conference student athlete recruitment and eligibility regulations.

√ Make official campus visits to your 'Top 5' colleges and athletic programs prior to your senior year sport season. This scheduling will allow you to enjoy a productive but relaxed 48 hours on each college campus while visiting with team members and coaches.

√ The amount of athletic scholarship money that may be offered to a student athlete does not necessarily reflect how much a coach wants the player on the team. For example, the current team may have a large number of upperclassmen with few athletic scholarships available to incoming freshmen. Or, a limited number of scholarships in a given sport may restrict athletic scholarships offered to incoming freshman.

√ Take the SAT and ACT college entrance tests during your Junior year and retest should your scores be lower than expected. Take both exams because some colleges emphasize one score over the other. Satisfactory completion of standard college entrance testing by Fall of your Senior year can help coaches more quickly decide you are a valuable recruit.

√ Confirm you have the correct coach name, title, and address before you attempt to contact a coach. Coaches change jobs; however, you can take steps to ensure your message reaches the intended individual.

√ Tell your high school coach which colleges interest you. They can provide initial introductions to college coaches in addition to valuable advice and contacts.

√ Participate in a physical conditioning program to prepare yourself for college competition and minimize the possibility of sports-related injuries.

√ Respond promptly and courteously to all inquiries and continue to visit colleges until you have a signed contract from the college of your choice. Avoid rejecting any interested school too early in the athletic recruiting process.

√ Remain flexible in choosing a college. Identify available athletic and academic opportunities and carefully compare them to your individual strengths and personal goals.

√ Participate in quality summer camp, clinic, tournament, showcase and travel team experiences. They provide you with opportunities to improve your skills and display them to college representatives.

√ Extend invitations to coaches to watch you compete in scheduled games, tournaments, camps and showcases. In addition to providing your event date, location and time you should include details that help coaches identify you during competition: your team name, uniform color and number.

√ A well-made video showcases your talent and skill in competition. Be sure your video includes your name and year in school, the name of your high school, your uniform color(s) and number(s) as shown in the video, and other information you think would be useful to college coaches viewing your video. Your video should also show your personality so a personal interview is highly recommended.

√ In competition, in the classroom, online and everywhere you go, always conduct yourself in a positive manner. Coaches are reluctant to recruit student athletes that can bring negative attention to themselves, their team and their school. Remember, you never know who or when someone is watching to get an idea of your character or level of integrity.

√ If a coach advises you that you are not a good match, accept the news and quickly move on to identify and contact colleges that can be both an academic and athletic fit.

√ Ask a lot of questions throughout your recruiting process. Before visiting colleges, prepare a list of questions to ask coaches and counselors about your athletic career, the coaching staff and team, academics, and finances.

√ It is never too early to visit colleges with athletic programs that interest you. However, if you are interested in early signing (November of your Senior year), your college visits should begin no later than Fall of your Junior year.

√ Review the team rosters for college sports programs that interest you. Current players' hometowns and states can suggest where a coach focuses his or her recruiting efforts. Reviewing the athletes in your position and their year in college can indicate a team's recruiting needs. Current team member profiles can reveal the physical and competitive qualifications expected of team members.

√ When meeting a coach face-to-face, be well-groomed and neat in your appearance. Your appearance provides a first impression that is long-remembered.

√ Develop your plan to let college coaches know who you are and what you can offer their program. Persistently follow your plan to make your goal of a college sport scholarship happen!

√ A well-made video that showcases your athletic talents and skills should be 5 to 10 minutes in length regardless of your sport and position. Include video of your drills or fundamental skills, in addition to competition highlights, only when requested by a coach.

√ Respond to requests from coaches immediately and professionally. Carefully review your responses to eliminate errors in spelling and grammar.

√ Send thank you notes to every college coach during your recruiting process. Your courteous follow-up communication with the coach could open the door for you in the event another student declines their scholarship offer. Whether a coach replies they are not recruiting your athletic talents or you decide not to attend the college, thank all coaches involved for their time and interest. Thank you notes following unpaid, as well as paid, college visits present a positive image of you both as a player and a person

√ Show your initiative and leadership by contacting coaches to express your interest in attending college as a student athlete. Colleges are more likely to recruit student athletes who demonstrate interest.

√ Keep all scheduled appointments for recruitment phone calls and visits. If for any reason you are unable to complete a scheduled appointment, contact the individual as soon as possible to request a re-scheduled appointment.

√ Promote yourself to multiple colleges. This approach allows you to benefit from the widest possible range of academic and athletic opportunities and increases your leverage when discussing scholarships.

√ Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center for initial eligibility certification prior to participating in athletics at a NAIA college or university.

√ Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse by the end of your Junior year to confirm your eligibility prior to receiving an athletic scholarship, practicing and competing at a NCAA Division I or II school. You can register online.

√ Be knowledgeable about all levels of U.S. college sports competition and related opportunities. Athletic scholarships are primarily awarded by three national athletic organizations: National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The NCAA is the largest of the three organizations. Smaller colleges and universities are part of the NAIA and the NJCAA is the association for junior colleges and community colleges. Many colleges in the National Christian College Association (NCCAA) may also offer some level of athletic scholarship.

